

I CLAIM:

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1. A dolly for selectively lifting and
transporting a power tool mounted on a stand, the dolly
comprising:

a first platform including a wheel system
extending downwardly therefrom, said first platform
further including an actuation surface or member for
receiving downwardly applied pressure in order to lift
the stand and tool off of the ground;

a second platform including a wheel system
extending downwardly therefrom;

connection means for rigidly affixing said
first platform to one portion of the stand, and for
rigidly affixing said second platform to another portion
of the stand;

said actuation surface or member of said first
platform being located above at least a portion of said
second platform; and

lift means for moving the dolly from a passive
position to a lift position thereby lifting the stand and
power tool off of the ground and enabling the power tool
to be moved on the ground via said wheel systems, said

22 lift means including a selectively actuated coupling
23 means for selectively coupling said first and second
24 platforms, and being actuated in response to downwardly
25 applied pressure being applied to said actuation surface
26 or member that forces said wheels downward so that said
27 wheel systems, as opposed to the stand, support the power
28 tool on the ground.

1 2. The dolly of claim 1, wherein said connection
2 means for affixing said first and second platforms to the
3 stand includes means for affixing said platforms so that
4 said platforms, when affixed to the stand, are disposed
5 entirely within the outer periphery of the stand so that
6 the footprint of the power tool and stand is not enlarged
7 by the dolly during use of the tool.

1 3. The dolly of claim 1, further comprising latch
2 means, operatively associated with said actuation surface
3 or member, for joining a portion of said first platform
4 to a portion of said second platform in order to force
5 said wheel systems downward and lift the stand and tool
6 off of the ground.

7 4. The dolly of claim 3, wherein said latch means
8 includes a male member affixed to one of said platforms
9 and a corresponding female member affixed to the other of
10 said platforms for receiving said male member.

1 5. The dolly of claim 3, wherein said actuation
2 surface or member includes a foot receiving surface so
3 that the operator can lift the stand and tool off of the
4 ground by stepping on said foot receiving surface so that
5 said latch means joins said first and second platforms
6 together and causes said wheel systems to be forced
7 downward relative to the stand so that said wheels
8 support the stand.

1 6. The dolly of claim 3, wherein at least part of
2 said latch means is located on an elongated member
3 connecting opposite sides of said second platform.

1 7. The dolly of claim 1, wherein each of said
2 platforms includes a frame which is one of (i)
3 triangular-shaped; (ii) rectangular-shaped; and (iii)
4 trapezoidal-shaped.

5 8. The dolly of claim 1, wherein said connection
6 means for affixing said first platform to the stand
7 includes first and second members pivotally attached to
8 said first platform.

1 9. The dolly of claim 8, wherein said first
2 platform includes a frame having first and second
3 elongated members, and said first pivotally attached
4 member is connected to said first elongated member
5 proximate an end thereof, and said second pivotally
6 attached member is connected to said second elongated
7 member proximate an end thereof.

1 10. The dolly of claim 9, wherein the wheel system
2 of said first platform includes a pair of wheels and said
3 wheels of said first platform are attached to said first
4 and second elongated members, respectively.

1 11. The dolly of claim 1, wherein said first
2 platform includes first and second rigid elongated
3 members connected by a crossbar member, and said second
4 platform also includes first and second rigid elongated

5 members connected by another crossbar member, and wherein
6 said first and second rigid elongated members of said
7 first platform contact the top of said another crossbar
8 member of said second platform when the dolly is in its
9 lifting position so as to lift the stand and tool.

1 12. The dolly of claim 1, wherein said first
2 portion of the stand includes first and second legs of
3 the stand, and said second portion of the stand includes
4 third and fourth legs of the stand.

1 13. A method of lifting and transporting an object
2 mounted on a stand having first, second, third, and
3 fourth legs, the method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) providing a lift dolly including first and
5 second rigid members selectively connectable to one
6 another by way of a latching mechanism;

7 (b) affixing the first rigid member of the
8 lift dolly to the first and second legs of the stand;

9 (c) affixing the second rigid member of the
10 lift dolly to the third and fourth legs of the stand so
11 that when the first and second rigid members of the dolly

12 are affixed to the stand but are not connected to one
13 another via the latching mechanism, the stand is the
14 primary ground support for the object to be lifted; and

(d) forcing a part of the first rigid member downward relative to the stand, said forcing step causing the latching mechanism to be actuated and couple together the first and second rigid members and lift the stand and object from the ground so that a wheel system of the dolly, as opposed to the stand, is the primary ground support for the object when the latching mechanism is actuated and couples the first and second rigid members together, thereby enabling transport of the object.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said forcing
2 step includes the operator stepping on a foot-receiving
3 surface or pedal in order to force downward the part of
4 the first rigid member.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the first and
2 second rigid members each include a platform having a
3 plurality of rigid elongated members, and the latching
4 mechanism includes a male portion mounted to the first

5 rigid member and a female portion mounted to the second
6 rigid member.

1 16. A power tool device which may be selectively
2 transported from one location to another along the
3 ground, the power tool device comprising:

4 a stand having first, second, third, and fourth
5 elongated legs;

6 a power driven tool mounted on said stand;

7 a lift dolly affixed to said stand, said lift
8 dolly including a wheel system, and being able to define
9 each of a passive and a lifting position, said passive
10 position being defined as when said stand is the primary
11 ground support for said tool, and said lifting position
12 being defined when the stand and tool are lifted off of
13 the ground and said dolly is the primary ground support
14 for said tool;

15 said dolly including a first rigid member
16 affixed to said first and second legs of said stand, a
17 second rigid member directly affixed only to said third
18 and fourth legs of said stand, and a selectively actuated
19 connection means defining a first state and a second

20 state, said dolly being in said passive position when
21 said selectively actuated connection means is in its
22 first state and in said lifting position when said
23 connection means is in its second state;
24 actuation means for moving said connection
25 means from its first state to its second state in
26 response to pressure being downwardly applied to said
27 first rigid member thereby lifting said stand and tool
28 off of the ground and enabling transport of same via said
29 wheel system; and

30 deactuation means for moving said connection
31 means from its second state to its first state in
32 response to another downwardly applied pressure being
33 applied to said first rigid member thereby causing said
34 dolly to shift from said lifting state to said passive
35 state so that said tool can be used.

1 17. The power tool device of claim 16, wherein said
2 connection means includes latching mechanism having a
3 male portion mounted to said first rigid member and a
4 female portion mounted to said second rigid member.

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1 18. A lift dolly adapted to lift and enable/
2 transport of an object, the lift dolly comprising:
3 a first rigid platform adapted to be rigidly
4 affixed to one part of the object;
5 a second rigid platform adapted to be rigidly
6 affixed to another portion of the object;
7 latch means for selectively coupling said first
8 platform to said second platform;
9 lift means for lifting the object off of the
10 ground by applying downward pressure to said first
11 platform which causes said latch means to couple together
12 said first and second platforms; and
13 lowering means for lowering the object to the
14 ground by applying additional downward pressure to said
15 first platform which causes said latch means to decouple
16 said first and second platforms.

1 19. The dolly of claim 1, wherein each of said
2 wheel systems includes a pair of castor wheels.

1 20. A latch mechanism for selectively coupling
2 first and second rigid members, the latch mechanism
3 comprising:

4 said first rigid member including a male member
5 pivotally mounted thereto, the male member capable of
6 being biased in first and second different directions,
7 and including a first surface having a notch defined
8 therein and a second surface opposite said first surface;

9 said second rigid member including a female
10 portion mounted thereto, said female portion having each
11 of a crossbar member for engagement with said notch, and
12 a cam surface;

13 actuation means for securing the first and
14 second rigid members to one another via the latch
15 mechanism by directing said male member through an
16 aperture defined in said female portion when said male
17 member is biased in said first direction toward said
18 crossbar, so that said crossbar comes to rest within said
19 notch thereby securing said first and second rigid
20 members together; and

21 deactuation means for decoupling said first and
22 second rigid members by directing said male member

23 further through said aperture so as to cause said male
24 member to become biased in said second direction and
25 thereafter directing said male member rearwardly out of
26 and away from said aperture so that said second surface
27 of said male member contacts said cam surface thereby
28 causing said male member to again become biased in said
29 first direction toward said crossbar so that said notch
30 will become engaged with said crossbar when said male
31 member is again directed through said aperture in said
32 female portion.

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